
From: Al Raymond
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2013 10:10 AM
To: PHC Testimony
Subject: Amending Senate Bill 129 to reopen STS to new admissions.

To the Public Health Committee:

Since 1997 we have been the co-guardians of our brother Duncan Raymond, who is 74 and has lived at Southbury Training School (STS) since 1964---49 years. Starting in 1997, we have visited STS many times and have found him to be happy, healthy, and well cared for by the dedicated and professional staff.

If STS is reopened to new admissions, it would reduce or eliminate altogether the long list of intellectually and other disabled persons waiting to be admitted to other licensed care facilities, at least some of which are reported to have a record of neglect, abuse, poorly trained and underpaid staff, and corrupt management. (In any case, the existence of the waiting list is proof that there are simply too few of them to accommodate those who need professional attention.)

At STS there has already been in existence for many years a facility large enough to accommodate those on the waiting list, and to offer service to the general community, as evidenced by a newly opened dental center and eventually a medical center as well---all in one place.

It has been said that STS costs more per client than the other facilities referred to above. In our opinion, that argument is specious because, having been closed to new admissions since 1986, STS's resident population has inevitably decreased over the years. When relatively fixed costs are apportioned among a declining population, the impression is bound to be created that the per-person average is high and getting higher. If STS is reopened to new admissions, the per-person cost would more closely correspond to that of other facilities---and STS would have the added advantage of continuing to be under Federal as well as State regulation, which we are informed is not the case with State-licensed facilities.

Therefore we ask the Committee to approve an amendment to Senate Bill 129 to reopen STS to new admissions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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